

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,565,048,007,674.3 so far this Congress. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

MERCER ISLAND'S 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, as the representative to this House for the 8th District of Washington, I want to congratulate and recognize a city within the 8th District that is celebrating a milestone anniversary today.

Mercer Island, with a population of 22,890, was incorporated on July 5, 1960. It is an island in Lake Washington, situated a few minutes east of Seattle. The City is breathtaking in many areas, with wonderful parks, open spaces, beautiful neighborhoods, and successful schools. My District Office is located on Mercer Island and the merchants and residents of the community could not be more accommodating or welcoming of my staff and the various guests who visit the office. Mercer Island is a gem of the 8th District.

Every August, Mercer Island has a front row seat to the extraordinary display put on by the Blue Angels and the boats on Lake Washington during the Seafair celebration; honestly, experiencing Seafair from Mercer Island is an experience that will not be forgotten. Additionally, Mercer Island's large multipurpose community center is an exceptionally valuable community asset and its parks provide the natural beauty and open space that is a hallmark of the Pacific Northwest.

Many fine business, civic and community leaders call Mercer Island home. Many fine students attend school on the island and receive first-class educational opportunities. Mercer Island is one-of-a-kind and I'm pleased to recognize its 50th anniversary of existence. To Mayor Jim Pearman, members of the City Council, and residents of Mercer Island, I say congratulations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I missed two votes last week in order to attend an important community celebration in International Falls and to see the devastating impact of a tornado that struck Wadena. As a result, I was unable to record my vote on important legislation to ensure continued Medicare reimbursement for physicians and on comprehensive sanctions against Iran. Had I present, I would have voted "aye" on both measures (rollcall votes 393 and 394). I also missed seven votes on Tuesday in order to attend the funeral of Judge Gerald Heaney of Duluth. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall votes 395, 398, 399, 400 and 401; I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall vote 397, and I would have voted "present" on Rollcall vote 396.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SISTER  
MARY CELINE GRAHAM: "A  
WOMAN OF COMPASSION AND  
FAITH"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to memorialize a beloved member of our community, Sister Mary Celine Graham, who's mass will be celebrated tomorrow at Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in her beloved Harlem. Her tragic and senseless death came as a result of a horrific accident and has left behind a deeply felt void within the Handmaids of Mary of the Most Pure Heart family and the greater Harlem community. The Handmaids of Mary have a special place in my heart going back to my youth, and the loss of Sister Mary Celine is especially profound.

Sister Mary Celine was born in Jacksonville, Florida and raised in Detroit. At the age of 22, she joined the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary in Harlem, which is one of only three historically black orders of Roman Catholic nuns in the United States. She continued to share her love and services with her community for the next 61 years.

Her death at the age of 83 leaves behind a great legacy of tireless service and devotion to those who needed her. Sister Mary Celine is remembered as a woman of true compassion who believed in education for the young. She dedicated her life to being a teacher, director, and surrogate grandmother to the children of St. Benedict's Day Nursery on 124th Street at Marcus Garvey Park.

As the New York Times reported last week, Sister Mary Celine left an indelible mark on the children she cared for and educated. She was a gently firm yet caring teacher who recognized the potential in each individual and worked to bring that potential to fruition. Sister Mary Celine was not only an educator but was also a loving mother figure to the children. These children not only learned the basics of reading and numbers but also learned what it was to love, and what it was to serve others.

The undivided attention and care she poured out to the children and the community will be forever etched in the hearts of all those that encountered her. She was a true kindred spirit that emanated a sense of peace and order.

Madam Speaker, although her life was taken from us too abruptly, rather than mourn this tragedy, I hope that my colleagues will join me in remembering and celebrating the tremendous and loving spirit of Sister Mary Celine Graham—one of God's special angels who served Harlem at the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
BRADLEY W. BEAL

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mr. Brad Beal,

president and CEO of Nevada Federal Credit Union, and outgoing chairman of the Board for the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

Mr. Beal's dedicated service at Nevada Federal Credit Union made him an outstanding candidate for chairman of the NAFCU Board, and his fellow board members bestowed on him this great distinction in the summer of 2008. From the outset of his chairmanship, Mr. Beal proved to be an invaluable asset to the NAFCU family. His more than 30 years of financial services experience served him well while sitting on several NAFCU committees, testifying before Congress on relevant legislation, and keeping a close eye on issues and legislation surrounding the entire credit union community.

Mr. Beal, a tireless advocate for federal credit unions across the country, faced the challenges and opportunities he was presented with during this time with great professionalism and vigor.

Mr. Beal's selfless commitment as chairman of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions has not gone unnoticed. As he ends his term as chairman, I am sure his colleagues on the NAFCU Board will miss his leadership. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Brad Beal as his chairmanship comes to an end this July.

A TRIBUTE TO HON. RONALD B.  
MERRIWEATHER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my friend Ronald Merriweather. Dedicated to the law, Judge Merriweather worked to better his city and improve the lives of those living in Philadelphia. I know that my colleagues will join me in expressing our condolences to his family as well as thanking them for letting him brighten all of our lives.

Judge Merriweather was born May 27, 1938 and raised in Philadelphia. A product of the Philadelphia Public School System, he graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1956. After high school Judge Merriweather attended Morgan State University, graduating with a degree in Chemistry and a 2nd Lt. Commission in the U.S. Army. From 1960 to 1962 he served in the U.S. Army, being promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

After serving in the Army, Judge Merriweather was employed as a United States Treasury Agent with the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. He served in this position for 5 years, earning the U.S. Secretary of Treasury Award for Outstanding Service. After, Judge Merriweather received his J.D. from UCLA Law School and became a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 1973.

Judge Merriweather practiced law in Philadelphia for over ten years, before being elected to the Philadelphia Municipal Court in 1984. He worked on this court for 26 years, retiring in January 2010. During his tenure on the Municipal Court, Judge Merriweather garnered special recognition and numerous awards. He became a Senior Judge in 2009 and was honored with a Special Recognition Award from the Guardian Civic League.